

Remarks

The above preliminary amendment is made to cancel claim 1 and add new claims 26-40.

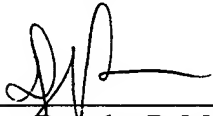
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: DECEMBER 4, 2003

By  _____
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM:nel